take advantage of this rebate and prefer their claims for reimbursement of the rebate amounts. The Prime Minister had also announced a scheme with an outlay of Rs. 125 crore, for imparting training to 1 lakh weavers/ artisans so as to enhance their skill and marketing/managerial capabilities. Further, a special contributory insuance scheme for 1 million weavers/ artisans combining the Jan Shree Bima Yojana of the Life Insurance Corporation of India with Group Insurance was also announced.

Applications received under TUFS from Rajasthan

2311. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) since 1st April, 1999 in all the States;

(b) the number of applications received under TUFS from the State of Rajasthan; and

(c) the status of applications received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the number and status of applications received under TUFS from the State of Rajasthan as on 31-12-2002, is as below:

(Rs. in crores)

Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed			
No. of Appli-	Project Cost	Amount of loan required	No. of appli- cations	Project Cost	Amount	No. of appli- cations	Project Cost	Amount Sanc- tioned	Amount
191	1354.81	786.96	156	963.48	464.35	140	921.62	443.89	369.54

Consignments of garment held up at European Ports

2312. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether garment consignments worth more than Rs. 250 crores are being held up at European ports due to a quota row;

(b) whether the member countries of the European Union are not allowing Indian garment imports beyond permissible quota allotments; and

(c) whether Indian garment exporters have been asked to call back the consignments and re-export them with fresh quota entitlements for 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), about 21.2 lakh pieces worth Rs. 43.0 crores (approximately) of shirts and pullovers are stuck up at European Ports due to excess shipment over the 2002 quota limits prescribed under the India-EU bilateral Textile Agreement.

The Government promptly approached the European Union for invocation of exceptional flexibilities for clearance of the stuck up consignments. The proposal has since been accepted by the European Union.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Textiles Centre

2313. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructure proposed to be developed by the Centre in Textile Centres;

(b) the amount to be sanctioned per Textile Centre for this purpose; and

(c) the other related development and technology proposed to be assisted in textile Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Government has launched a new scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS)" for rejuvenating and plugging critical infrastructure gaps in predominantly textile/apparel sector areas to help the units located therein to become globally competitive.

Balancing investment may, *inter alia*, relate to:—

(i) construction of roads